



YEARBOOK

The County
The Clubs
The Teams
The year that was

2021



GAA



The Clubs of

Donard / Glen
Dunlavin
Glenealy
Hollywood
Laragh
Michael Dwyers
Newtown

In the year that was

2021



Donard Glen

Seniors

After the success of 2020, it was a bit of a comedown to return to Division 2 games this year; the continued absence of league promotion is definitely becoming an issue for us. There was a slow start to the year, again due to COVID, with the first competitive fixture not arriving until June against Laragh. This was Mickey Daly's second year in charge and his backroom team of Brendan Daly and JB Carthy was freshened up by the addition of Eddie Flynn as a very knowledgeable selector.

We opened the season with a solid win over Laragh and then defeated Baltinglass in a tough away match. After 6 matches were in a good place in the league at this stage, but then we finished on a low note as we were well beaten in the semi-final by a very strong Baltinglass side. It was, nevertheless, a useful test, as we got a good look at some of the Baltinglass players that we would see again later in the season and it showed Mickey and his backroom team what they needed to address heading into Championship.

The draw for the Senior Championship allowed us to avoid a difficult preliminary round but then pitted us against near-neighbours Kiltegan in what many saw as a dogfight to avoid relegation. But this was far from the minds of the team and management, who got straight down to preparing for the game. All that hard work paid off when our well-drilled squad came out the right side of a tough encounter in Baltinglass on a scoreline of 0-13 to 1-08, although we sat back in the last 10 minutes and made the result a lot closer than it needed to be. There was no time to relax and enjoy that victory as we were out against 2020 semi-finalists Avondale in Aughrim the following weekend. Once again, our lads shrugged off the underdog label to deservedly run out 1-11 to 0-12 winners.

With Senior status secured, focus now turned to the quarter-final and we found ourselves up against senior champions Baltinglass. Far from being fazed, Mickey and the lads relished the opportunity to take on the big guns and redoubled their efforts on the training ground. And so, it was back to Aughrim on October 24th for the biggest game in many years. As usual, support for Donard-Glen far outstripped the opposition and every challenge and score was greeted with a roar from the stand. We matched Baltinglass score for score for much of the match and there was nothing in it with 5 minutes to go, when a huge kick from goalkeeper Jackson caught our defence wrong-footed and Baltinglass got the goal that finally put daylight between themselves and our defiant team. The fact that both team and supporters were so disappointed to lose was a clear demonstration of how far this team has come and the belief that Mickey has instilled in them that Senior is where we belong.

Everyone in the club will no doubt salute manager, Mickey Daly, his selectors and, of course, our Senior squad, for all their hard work and their professional approach throughout the year which gave us all some great days out in Baltinglass and Aughrim. Long may it continue.

Juniors

Like the Senior team, our Juniors had a slow start to the year, with the first match in the league not taking place until mid-June. We struggled in our early matches, despite having a welcome influx of new talent from the 2020 Minor team. After a while though, the blend of young and old started to come together and we got our first win against Stratford in Blackmoor. As the League progressed, results continued to be mixed but there were some highpoints such as the battling 1-point win away to Kiltegan.

We were beaten by Valleymount in the Wilson-Buttle, but the team were strengthened by an influx of fresh faces as Championship came around in October. We were placed in a group with Valleymount, Blessington and Shillelagh/Coolboy. First up was Valleymount at home and it was sweet revenge for earlier defeats in the league as the lads eked out a hard-fought 3-point victory. Unfortunately, this was followed by a grim 0-7 to 0-5 defeat at home against Blessington. As a result, it was do or die against Shillelagh/Coolboy two weeks later to ensure we progressed. What followed was the best performance of the year to date; everybody played their part, and we ran out facile 5-13 to 0-2 winners. So, plenty of optimism heading into a semi-final last weekend against Kilcoole, (we got a bye through the quarter-final). Unfortunately, we came out on the wrong side of a tight 2-07 to 1-08 result, as we battled to the end despite being reduced to 13 men. It was a game we could have, probably should have, won. Something for this relatively young team to work on for 2022. Thanks are due to hardy perennial, Paddy Toomey, and Neil Stynes for guiding the Juniors this year.

Juvenile

The pandemic again intruded into the season for juveniles. However, our coaches, directed by coordinator, Brian Lennon, refused to be defeated and got the ball rolling at the end of April. Training ran each Saturday until the end of October. We had good numbers at each age group, generally averaging 70 to 80 kids in total each week, out of a total registered number of under-11's of around 100.

Our U7 and U9's played in numerous Go Games over the course of the year and competed really well against all the teams we came up against. We also hosted three very successful Go Games in Donard. A number of new coaches came on board in 2021 which is a good sign for the future. The U11 team had a mixed year. In terms of improvement, they came on leaps and bounds. The players and their parents gave great commitment both on and off the field, training three nights a week. The other positive is that we started the year with only 15 players and finished with 23 players, which shows what momentum can do for us. We had our Cul Camps event in July which had the highest number yet, (87), registered which is a reflection of the increased numbers in our National schools. We finished the year with our Floodlit Mini All Ireland which was a great success.

On behalf of the club, I would like to acknowledge recognise the contributions of coaches, many of whom are parents and

some of whom are former players who are passing on their knowledge and skills to the next generation, and in particular, Brian Lennon who really led from the front.

And the news was also very positive with our older kids playing for St Nicholas. Our U-13's beat Bray to win the County Final whilst the seconds narrowly lost the Plate final. The u-15's struggled a bit this year, despite the best efforts of Suzie Toomey and Brendan Coyne, as well as Conor Healy who took a number of sessions. For the "Nicks" Minors, it was another great year with a back-to-back County title secured on October 30th with a decisive 4-10 to 2-02 victory over AGB. This team, who beat Bray and Rathnew on the way to the final, have won titles at all age-levels and are clearly a very talented bunch. 9 of the starting 15 came from our side of the parish, and hopefully we will have a strong flow of new players to strengthen our adult teams in the coming years. Our club has to be very grateful for the great work being done by Chair, Fred Walshe, and with Donard-Glen mentors such as Malachy Sheridan, Paul Metcalfe, James Geoghegan, Brendan Coyne, Jim Humphries and Suzie Toomey. St Nicholas continues to thrive and provide a platform for our 13-17 year-olds to develop their skills and confidence.

Club Matters

Off the field, the biggest, and best, development of 2021 was the success of the walking track. Right from the beginning of the year, thanks to the new lights, young and old were to be seen striding out around Jim Mills Park. As a result, we picked up an unprecedented number of new social members - 78 in total. Hopefully some of these new members will want to get even more involved with the club in future. Funding for the lights was helped by a Walkathon in March.





Dunlavin

Year in review

2021 was an extremely successful year for Dunlavin GAA both on and off the pitch. Our Senior team celebrated Division 1A success and had a very positive run in the senior championship and our second team celebrated an outstanding year with two league titles and an impressive run in the Junior B championship. Out of their 14 games played they boast an impressive 12 wins. Both sets of management and players deserve full credit for all their dedication, commitment and enthusiasm shown this year and we look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Our juvenile U5's, U7's, U9, and U11s enjoyed a fantastic year also. The effort, hard work and dedication put in from our coach's week in/week out each year is visible for all to see and the progress of the kids each year is a testament to this.

Off the field we have completed another substantial development project in the resurfacing of our approach road and footpath linking us to the town pathways for a safer surface for our club and local community.

We planned and held a 24 hour walkathon at Easter, which turned out to be the clubs' single most successful fundraiser ever, even under difficult circumstances, we were so proud of the support we had, from Dunlavin to Australia, New Zealand, Canada and North Carolina. We can't thank those within and outside our community for all the support we received.

Our boundary wall on approach to the club grounds, also received a makeover this year, thanks to all the businesses and families who supported us and sponsored signs.

We ran a successful Halloween skills camp in late October. This was our first time running such a camp and it was a great success. We received amazing feedback from the parents so hopefully we will be able to make it an annual thing! Our most important fundraiser every year is our lotto as it's a constant cash flow for the club. We successfully got our lotto up and running on Club Force which has increased sales. The ongoing success of the lotto is undoubtedly attributed to the lotto committee and their hard work.

A special mention to James Whelan as he steps down this year from his role as chairman. The work he has put in over the last five years to help the development of our club has been phenomenal, and we appreciate all the hard work he has put in during his tenure. Luckily, he is not going too far and is remaining on our committee! We thank him and all our outgoing committee members for the amazing work they have done these past few years.

Welcome to all our new committee members for the 2021/2022 especially to our new chairman, Darragh Figgis, he is no stranger to the football scene and has hit the ground running in his new role. Everyone in the club wishes him all the success in the world and we are delighted to have him on board.

A huge congratulations to Jimmy Whittle who was nominated to become an honorary president of Dunlavin GAA club, Jimmy is well known throughout the county so it will come as no surprise to hear he has joined our list of esteemed honorary presidents, and we thank him for all his hard work and dedication to the club.

We have lost some past members of our club over the last twelve months, may they Rest in Peace.

Senior Team



Coming in on December 9th and having the opportunity to get the ball rolling amid what was going on around us was a great start, lots of optimism around the club, new management team with new ideas.

We returned properly to the pitch Wednesday May 10th and on return, our focus turned to the first league outing at home versus Eire Og and a first opportunity for the management to see the team in action for the first time. Some positive aspects to the game, but at the end of the day a loss

on our opening game of the year. Now that things were back up and running, we hit the ground running with challenge games and opportunities to run the rule over the squad before heading to Bray and players showcasing some of the new work that had gone on during training and a positive result.

After the Bray game, it was quickly followed up with a home fixture versus Kilcoole resulting in a loss, but the positive of the loss was that we now knew what the mentality within

the club was. Our next game versus Hollywood, showed a good team performance which resulted in a win was then followed by a second positive team performance but a loss to Coolkenno in a game where we struggled to take our chances. Hard work by players on the training pitch meant we rectified that a week later by beating a stronger Coolkenno team at home and set ourselves up a league final versus an Eire Og team that was flying high in the league with some positive results.

An impressive win versus Eire Og in the League Final showed how far the team had come over the course of the league, from an awakening in the first round to beating a team whom at the time were at championship pace.

Moving on from the league and three weeks on, to the first round of championship versus Blessington, the positive of the loss on the day was we showed in the second half of the Blessington game that the players can play at that level, but we still had a lot of work to do.

Bouncing back from the one-point defeat against Blessington, we showcased the ability within the club to compete at senior level of football against a seasoned and physical Rathnew team, whom despite the age of the squad had the strength to overcome our higher skill levels. .

Junior Team



Our junior team had their most successful year in recent times by winning the Division 4 West league and winning the Overall Division 4 league.

We played 7 games in the west league winning 5 drawing one and losing one against some very good opposition in Baltinglass, An Tochar, Carnew and Lacken/ Kilbride.

After finishing top of this league and winning it, we qualified for the semi-finals of the Wilson Buttle League where we met a very strong Baltinglass side again coming away with the victory.

Then it was the final V Avondale in Avondale which was a very good game and a true testament to the capabilities and the quality of players that we have. We came away with an-

Looking forward to 2022

After a successful 2021, on and off the pitch, we are delighted to have all our teams back playing competitive football and having our fans being able to attend the games each week again, we look forward to 2022 with great optimism for further success.

The Highs: Division 1A League Champions, Beating Tina-hely, a seasoned senior championship team, Players finally believing they can play at the highest level in the county but now knowing the extra work that each one of them now has to put in individually off the training field. The massive reduction in injuries over the course of the season due to the work put into mobility & prehab from the management team and by the players.

The Lows: Losing two fantastic young and upcoming players to injury in Daryl Huntley and Rory Martin, both fantastic young men as well as top class senior players who will come back into the team mid-way through the 2022 season and play a massively role in the club going forward over the next few years.

We lose a fantastic player in Martin Stack for next year, he has moved home to his native Kerry, he will be missed in the team, we would like to thank him for his hard work and dedication and being a huge part of the team, we wish him well with his home club in the future!

A huge thank you to our head coach, Stephen Maxwell and his management team of Alan Deering, Bryan Mc Parland, Dean O'Rourke and Michael Moran for all their hard work and the huge amount of time they invested in 2021.

other victory adding another piece of silverware to the year. It was championship then, where we were drawn in a group with Rathnew, Avoca and St Patrick's. With away wins against St Patrick's and Rathnew and a loss to a strong Avoca side we qualified for the Quarter Finals of the championship.

Unfortunately, we were unlucky to be without so many players for this game and we lost out to a great Bray side so this was the end of the year for us.

On a positive note, there is serious potential in this squad and going forward for 2022, with a little bit more commitment and they could also be on the cusp of winning a championship.

The club and grounds have never looked better, and we hope it will be an exciting new year for the club We would like to thank all our club members and a special thank you to our sponsors ESI foods for their continued support and we wish everyone a happy & healthy 2022.

Juveniles

This year our juveniles started off training in early May, it couldn't have rained any harder, however it didn't stop the kids turning out, the pitch was packed, and numbers kept growing week after week.

During the year, the Senior players came down to training after their league final win and the Junior players after their Division 4 league win to chat with the children and pose for a few pictures!

It is great to see so many young players getting involved in football this year. The future looks bright for Dunlavin GAA.

U11's



Our U11's played Division 2 this year, it wasn't easy, and they got some great tough challenge matches. They worked hard all the way through the year. They met Ballinacor in Laragh

on a lovely sunny Saturday morning and all the hard work paid off.

U10's



Our U10 team played in the player pathway this year, which was fantastic for extra football for the kids, they topped their group to meet Tinahely in a windswept Donard on a

Thursday night with a fantastic support turning out for this team, unfortunately the result didn't go our way.

U9's



Our U9 team had a great year in Go Games putting out 2 teams at the start of the year but unfortunately as things started to open up and other sports started up, numbers for Saturday morning matches dwindled. However, you could see the improvement in the kids with every game as the year

went on.

This team also played in a floodlight league in October which works on different skills every night and was a huge success again this year.

U7's



Our U7's also had a great year in Go Games starting off with three teams in are first home game, then as things started to open up, we were getting two teams out for Saturday morning games. This group always had massive numbers for

training, it was great fun and lots of 'I can't do that' statements from kids until the end of training when they were running to show their parents the new skill that they had learned.

U5's



Our U5's were brilliant lots of laughing, running, jumping, rolling and games. Getting loads of fundamentals done

throughout the season while most importantly having fun.



St Nicholas Team Reports Minor Team Report



The panel commenced individual training in early February and they returned to the pitch on the 26th of April with two sessions a week..

Throughout the season we played 10 championship games on a league basis, winning 8 games, and losing 2 against Rathnew and Baltinglass, both away. We finished top of the league with 16 points and played Rathnew in the semi- final on October 17th. A very strong second half performance resulted in a deserved win by the team, which was reflected

in the score line of 4-11 to 2-4.

The county final was played in Bray on Saturday 30th October against a fancied Arklow Geraldines Team. In front of strong support, St Nicks put in a powerhouse performance from start to finish, winning the game comfortably 4-10 to 2-2. This was a supreme performance by all, and Captain Jack Keogh accepted the cup on behalf of the team. Sean Doyle won man of the match award for another outstanding display on the day.

U15 Team Report



The first night training was 10th May, due to restrictions on travel and contact sports etc no challenge games could be played.

Our first two games of the season against Blessington & Roundwood resulted in two consecutive losses unfortunately.

In July we travelled to Rathnew and got our first win of the season 2-12 to 1-5.

Our next two home games resulted in losses also.

August brought the Feile in Ballinakill. First team up was AGB – we suffered our first loss to them!! They went on to win

the competition. Next up was Bray, we were so unlucky not to win this one, - lost by 2 points after a very exciting game. Last game of the day was St Pats, which we won, and the lads proved to themselves that they can play football when they want to!

October brought the semi-final against Baltinglass in Balt-inglass. We came away with a win 4-5 to 2-6.

We then went to Ballinakill to play Aughrim. It was 2-4 to 2-4 at full time, We were down to 13 players – extra time – 15 a side again but lost out by 4 points. Fantastic game of football to watch, plenty of excitement but not to be our day.

U13 Team Report



Training was twice a week and we managed to get a few friendly games between Championship matches. We managed to have two teams and thankfully we got through safe and managed to field both teams as best we could.

Our Red Team, managed to get to the semi-final of their division and our Blue Team won the A Championship Final with an unbelievable 11 match win.



Glenealy



Senior

After a disappointing 2020 season which saw an early exit from Championship, it was clear from the league campaign that this year's Glenealy outfit meant business. Led by new manager and Club veteran M.A O'Neill, the lads went on to win the league after a thrilling display of hurling over Eire Og Greystones in Aughrim.

In the first round of championship we would meet the Greystones men again who were out for revenge after the league final defeat. Thankfully a late goal from Gary Byrne would prove vital to level the game at full time. After topping our group in the Championship we faced Carnew in the semi-final, in what could be described as our game of the season. We saw ourselves back in a County Final against Bray Emmets, but unfortunately on the day it was not to be as we were unable to find our form from the semi-final game. After an inspired second half comeback gave us hope the men in red battled hard but the deficit from the first half proved enough for Bray to keep us at arm's length and deny us the O'Donoghue Cup.

Intermediate

Once Covid restrictions had lifted in June of this year our Intermediate team had only one thing on their minds as they still awaited Kilcoole in the 2020 IHC Final. Unfortunately Kilcoole proved too strong and ran away winners on the day. With a few more young lads coming through from Minor level mixed with older stalwarts we had a solid championship effort, unfortunately to be beaten by Bray Emmets in the semi-final.

Minor

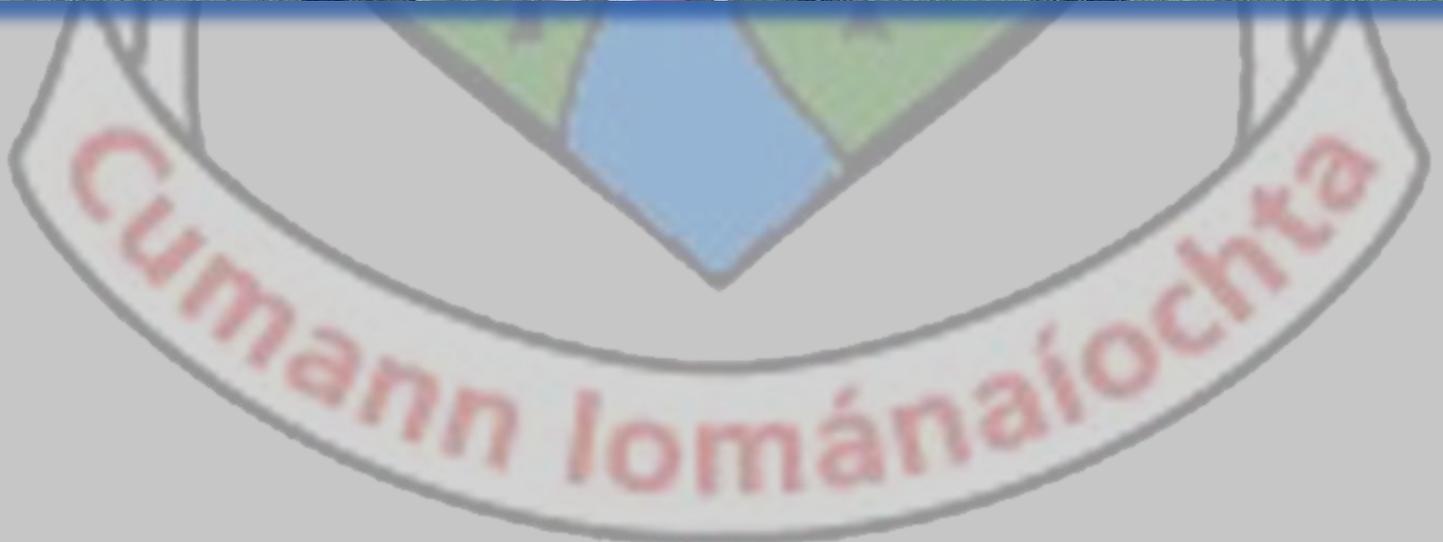
A continued amalgamation with St. Pats at Minor level to form Glen/Pats has proved successful to compete with larger district teams throughout the county. Glen/Pats similar to our Senior team saw league success.

After a resounding semi-final performance over Bray Emmets in Ballinakill we faced Western Gaels in the Final. Captain James Ffrench lead the Glen/Pats march into Aughrim, but under devastating circumstances with a last minute goal for Western Gaels from a 60 yard free we were beaten by 1 point.

U7 & U9's



Our U7 and U9 teams both had hugely successful year's in their Go Games Blitzs. Both teams have shown great skill and progression throughout the year, the future of Glenealy Hurling is bright with these little warriors coming through the ranks.



U11's



Our U11 team finished off 2021 in style after becoming the 2021 U11 A Champions!!! A fantastic little team lead by mentor M.J O'Neill. They met a strong Michael Dwyers team in the final but ran out winners with a score line of 6-08 to 2-07.

Well done to our little red warriors who in true Glenealy style showed through their hard work and skill that they were worth winners. Captain Alex McKenna lifted the cup for his team.

U13's

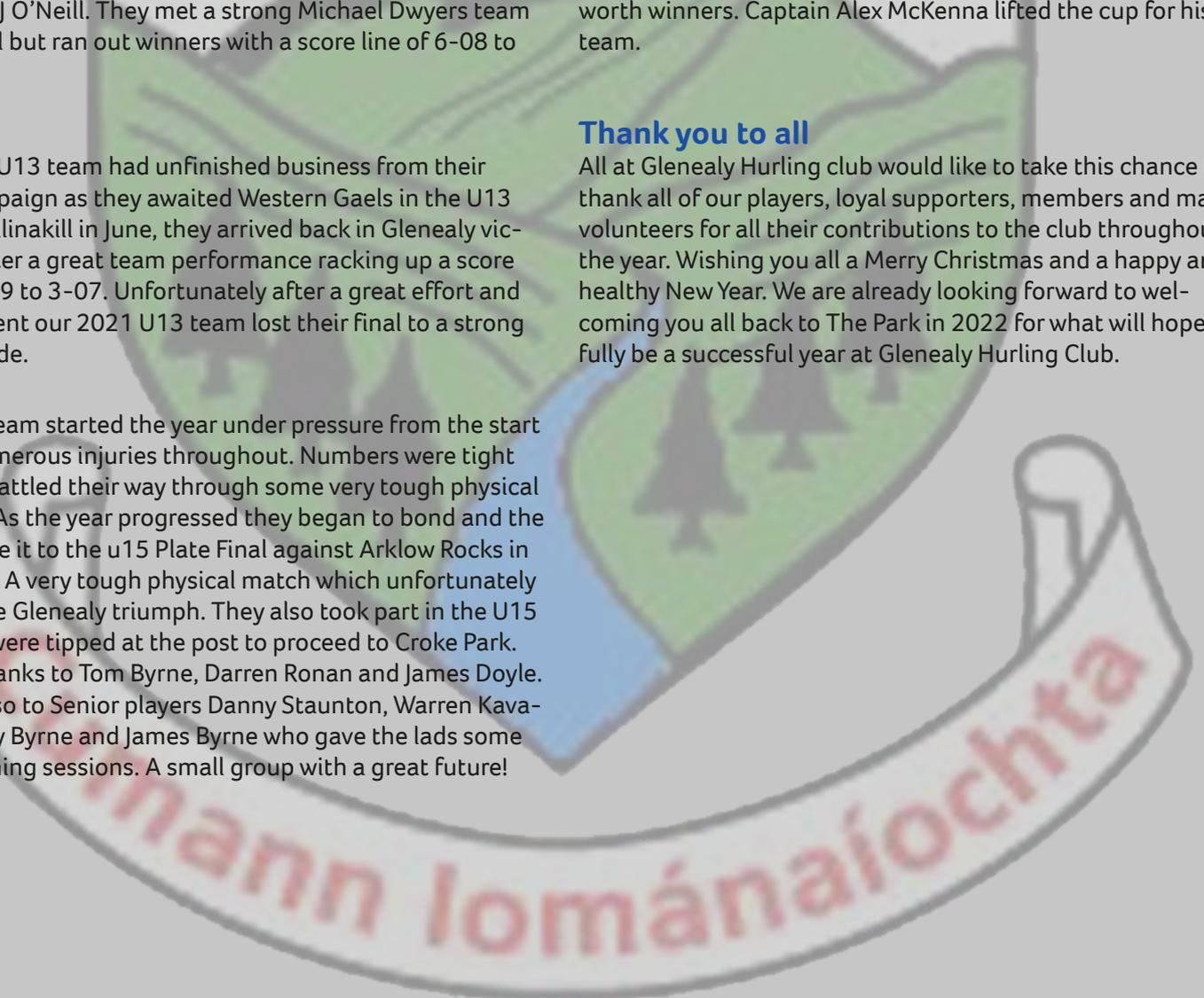
Our 2020 U13 team had unfinished business from their 2020 campaign as they awaited Western Gaels in the U13 final in Ballinakill in June, they arrived back in Glenealy victorious after a great team performance racking up a score line of 5-09 to 3-07. Unfortunately after a great effort and commitment our 2021 U13 team lost their final to a strong Kilcoole side.

U15's

Our U15 team started the year under pressure from the start due to numerous injuries throughout. Numbers were tight but they battled their way through some very tough physical matches. As the year progressed they began to bond and the team made it to the u15 Plate Final against Arklow Rocks in Ballinakill. A very tough physical match which unfortunately did not see Glenealy triumph. They also took part in the U15 Feile and were tipped at the post to proceed to Croke Park. Special thanks to Tom Byrne, Darren Ronan and James Doyle. Thanks also to Senior players Danny Staunton, Warren Kavanagh, Gary Byrne and James Byrne who gave the lads some great training sessions. A small group with a great future!

Thank you to all

All at Glenealy Hurling club would like to take this chance to thank all of our players, loyal supporters, members and many volunteers for all their contributions to the club throughout the year. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. We are already looking forward to welcoming you all back to The Park in 2022 for what will hopefully be a successful year at Glenealy Hurling Club.





Hollywood

On the Field

Hollywood fielded two adult football teams in 2021. Leagues at adult level were replaced by cup competitions with no relegation or promotion involved. Given the late start to the season and lack of continuity of games because of Covid, these competitions provided good preparation for championship.

Our Junior A team struggled for players at times but, in difficult circumstances, fulfilled all fixtures. While they lost their initial championship game to Aughrim, they advanced to the quarter-final by virtue of a bye in the second round. In the quarter-final they were beaten by a strong Baltinglass team who eventually made the final.

Our Intermediate championship campaign kicked off with a narrow but deserved win over a strong Annacurra team at Baltinglass. Next up was a return trip to Baltinglass to face Carnew. Unfortunately, this game had to be abandoned due to a serious injury to a Hollywood player. The refixed game was played mid-week and in a tight and tense affair Hollywood eventually edged out Carnew and advanced to a quarterfinal by a single point.

The quarter final draw pitted Hollywood against Stratford/Grangecon who had qualified for the knockout stages by virtue of a thrilling win over Laragh in a penalty shootout after extra-time. The quarterfinal was played in Blessington

and in the second half the team eventually broke down the strong opposition resistance and ran out winners by seven points.

The semi-final was fixed for the following weekend against Carnew who had beaten a fancied Ballymanus team in their Quarter-final. In what was again a close affair, against now familiar opposition, they had to dig deep and come from behind, scoring the last two points in normal time to force the match to extra-time. In that extra-time period, superior fitness and broader panel made all the difference and Hollywood won by seven points.

Hollywood's opposition in the final was An Tochar who come into the game on foot of a very convincing semi-final win over Kilcoole. Despite a strong start, by half time they found themselves six points down. The lads dug deep and by the 2nd waterbreak that gap had been reduced to just 3 points. In a hectic last quarter Hollywood had their chances but just couldn't close the gap and were beaten by two points. We thank An Tochar for a sporting game and wish them all the best in senior ranks in 2022.

Congratulations to all of our players and mentors involved in our two adult teams who gave us such a thrilling season. We look forward to next year with excitement. Special thanks to Jarlath & Thomas at intermediate and Peter, John T and John M at Junior A for all of their work and commitment

Hollywood Intermediates



Under Age

Our underage football structure, St Kevin's (an amalgam with Vallemount and Lacken/Kilbride) could not function without the hard work, commitment and dedication of both parents and mentors. Their effort allowed us to field teams at U11, U12, U13, U15 and U17 in Wicklow.

Our juvenile academy is going from strength to strength, with increasing numbers continuing to attend our Thursday night coaching sessions and Go-Games events. A big thank

you to all our coaches who turn up every Thursday night to help out and run the U7 and U9 Go-Games. Additional volunteers are always welcome as are new members. We cater for all children of national school age in these sessions, from 4 – 9 years of age.

Our hurlers of all ages play with Western Gaels. A big thank you to Matt and the rest of the committee at Western Gaels who have worked so hard to promote hurling in West Wicklow. Particular congratulations on winning the Junior and Minor A championships

Off The Field

2021 has again been a challenging year for the GAA and club activity. With all activities again curtailed somewhat due to covid restrictions.

Our club lotto continues to be our most important source of income, many thanks to all who buy and help with selling the tickets and organising the fortnightly draw.

We look forward to being able to arrange a normal schedule

of social and fund raising events in 2022.

We would like to acknowledge the contribution of our sponsors, supporters, mentors & volunteers without whom our club would not survive.

Finally we wish to remember friends, supporters & members of Hollywood GAA club who have passed away this year. May they rest in peace.

Hollywood Junior A





Laragh

Nursery

This was the first year in the club's history that we have introduced a nursery team. Children who started school in September of 2021 got the opportunity to get their first introduction of playing Gaelic football as part of a team. There was up to 15 boys and girls each Wednesday night over the summer months. This was a great success for the club and we look forward to welcoming more members each year so we can continue building for the future.

U7's & U9's Go Games Teams

Our Go Games teams were very busy training every Wednesday over the summer months learning new skills and having fun while doing it. They took part in 8 Go Games Blitz during

this time, two of which were at home in Laragh. Each blitz the coaches could see huge improvements in all the boys and girls. We welcomed Wicklow County Co-ordinator Cormac Noone to training at the beginning and end of summer and was thrilled to see such a big change in all the children's skills and abilities. Cormac invited our U9's team to take part in an end of season Floodlit Go Games Blitz for clubs in West Wicklow with alternative rules. The team adapted well to the change of rules on the night and enjoyed every bit of this opportunity. A very enjoyable week was had by all the children who attended our Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camp, the first we have hosted in a number of years. They learned a lot of new skills, met new people and had a lot of fun.

U7 Go Games Teams



U9 Go Games Teams



U11'S Team:



This team had a great first season together as they got to travel around Wicklow and play their first competitive football matches. There was great success along the way as they made it to the league final. Unfortunately this team came up against a very strong Ballinacor side who ran out winners

on the way. There was a great sense of team work within the group as well as a good mix of boys and girls. We would like to wish all these players well for next season as some of the girls will join up with Clara Ladies. We'll be keeping a close eye on their progression.

U13's Clara Gaels (Balinacor/Laragh):

Our U13's boys joined up with neighbouring club Ballinacor GFC to form a Clara Gaels to create a strong team to compete in the league and championship. The team gelled together really well throughout the summer and had some great wins and fantastic team performances. We can't wait to see where this team goes in the next couple of years.

U15's Clara Gaels (Avondale/Laragh):



Similar to our U13's the U15's boys teamed up with Avondale and Avoca to form a strong outfit to compete in the U15 B championship. This teamed almost went undefeated all season apart from their two losses to AGB who they just couldn't shake. They lost to them in the group stages and then in the final also. They will be back next season with a

point to prove in this championship. Well done to the five lads representing Laragh, Sean Dunne, Aaron Conway, Ben Brennan, Taylor Delamare & Gavin Cullen. Special mention to Sean Dunne who is one of the clubs few dual stars, he applies his hurling credentials to Glenealy Hurling club who were unfortunate runners up in their championship.

Junior Team:

This was the first time in a number of years that we have entered a second team in to the Junior Championship. The management team of Tommy Cullen, Brendan Ward and Ger Mullins have combined a nice blend of young and old players who have rowed in together to get this team running again in what is an important step for Laragh GFC, especially the younger players. We competed in the Division 5 North League Cup and this team made it to the semi-final of this competition losing to a strong AGB team. We were then en-

tered in to the Junior D Championship but the results didn't go our way and we didn't get out of the group stages. We are looking forward to see where this team goes in the future. Junior Team: Back Row Left to Right: Steven Curly, Alex O'han, Christopher Merrigan, Noel Cross, Shane Duffy, Nathan Delamare, Hughy Cullen, Dean White, Graham Ward, Conor Kearney, Brendan Ward, Tommy Cullen, Front Row Left to Right: Daniel Power, Alan Smyth, Andrew Kenny, Ryan Delamare, Kyle Merrigan, Brian Ward, Lee Canavan.



Intermediate Team:



This was an up and down season for our lads, and the results reflected this as we had a decent run in the League cup and an unfortunate turn of events in the Intermediate Championship which has resulted in us being relegated to the Junior A Championship for next season. After only winning 1 of our 3 League Cup games we got ourselves into the Liam Cullen Division 2 League Cup semi-final against Shillelagh/Coolboy. Results went our way in the semi-final and final and we won the Liam Cullen Division 2 League Cup with a win over Stratford/Grangecon. The business end of the season rolled around and we had An Tóchar in the first round of the championship. A hard fought game ensued in Ashford but we came out on the wrong end of 1 point game losing 0-09 to 0-08 which left us with a play-off game against Stratford/Grangecon. This was a very controversial game played under lights and eventually fog in Hollywood after the two teams couldn't be separated after regular time (1-11 to 3-05) and extra-time. It was time for penalties and after a sceptical decision we lost 5-4. We now had to turn our attention 3 relegation play-off matches, we started off in the best possible way by defeating Ballinacor and Annacurra. It all came down to our final game with Kilmacanogue – we just had to make sure not to lose by less than 5 points to retain

our Intermediate status for 2022. Our luck was out for 2021 and Kilmacanogue blew us away, winning 3-11 to 0-11 which secured our faith and Junior A status for next season. We would like to say a massive thank you to Declan 'Decky' Byrne for the work he has put in with our adult team over the last five years. Decky has played a pivotal role bringing on the next generation of players. We would like to wish him all the best in the future.

(Intermediate Team winning the Liam Cullen Division 2 League Cup. Back Row Left to Right: Shane Duffy, John Murphy, David Miley, Alex Olohan, Mark Miley, James Nolan, Andrew Brancatto, Daniel Power, Steven Curly, Alan Smyth, Damien Hanlon, Gary Cullen, Front Row Left to Right: Peter Merrigan, Keane Murphy, Mark Cullen, Eric Olohan, Luke Kearney, John Nolan, David McDonald, Craig McCoy, Ross Doonan, Steve Olohan, Aran Lynham.

Executive Committee: Chairperson: Philip Bracken, Vice Chairperson: Christopher Merrigan Snr, Secretary: Ann Nolan, Treasurer: John Merrigan, P.R.O.: Kyle Merrigan, Committee Officers: Alan Smyth, Annemarie Kenna, Craig McCoy, Damien Hanlon, Richard Cullen, Peter Merrigan, Pat Cullen, Seamus Nolan, Tommy Cullen, Liam McEvoy.



Michael Dwyers

2021 proved to be another challenging year for Michael Dwyer's GAA and all GAA clubs throughout the country. This year we again operated in the shadow of COVID-19 and the ever changing restrictions. Our season start was delayed due to the COVID restrictions on playing sports. Wicklow GAA decided to use the first number of weeks back to finish off the incomplete competitions from last year. This worked out well for Michael Dwyer's with a number of our teams winning finals. As the 2021 season got under way properly all our players and coaches were eager to start. We had to contend with a few positive COVID-19 cases in our teams but with the guidance of the HSE and Public Health we managed to get through with minimal disruptions. Huge thanks must be given to our volunteer Coaches and COVID Supervisors who helped when we were experiencing cases. We were all happy to take the cautious route and some matches and training sessions were postponed. Wicklow GAA were very accommodating when it came to having to cancel matches as were our opponents.

We would like to acknowledge the vital role our 4 affiliated clubs, Ballymanus GAA, Kiltegan GAA, Knockananna GAA and Stratford/Grangecon GAA, have played in our operation again this year. Without their financial support and allowing us access to their facilities Michael Dwyer's GAA would not be able to function. It was great to see matches and training sessions in all of the 4 clubs as it strengthens the connections between our players and the core clubs. Michael Dwyer's would also like to thank St. Patrick's, Kiltegan for their continued support with the provision of Highpark. We would like to thank Christy O'Toole for all his hard work in maintaining the pitch at Highpark.

Michael Dwyer's GAA would like to thank all of our coaches and mentors for all their hard work throughout this challenging year. A huge thank you to all of our COVID Supervisors who did great work to keep our teams safe. Great credit must go to our players and parents for their commitment to Michael Dwyer's each and every year.

We would like to thank our players who came to us on permissions this year. Their commitment to their Michael Dwyer's teams was greatly appreciated.

U11 Hurling

Our under 11 Division 1 team played 8 matches throughout the year winning 6 and losing twice to Glenealy in both the league and their final in Ballinakill. Both U11 teams trained together during the year with 20 plus players there ever session, the lads have developed and made great progress over the course of the year. A big thank you to our Covid officers Avril Wynne and Olivia Harmon. Also a big thanks to all the parents for bringing the boys all year.

U13 Hurling

Michael Dwyer's fielded two teams at U13 hurling level again in 2021. One team was made up of all the players in their last year at U13 and they played in division 1. The other team was made up of players in their first year at U13 and they played in division 2. Both teams trained together in High Park every week (usually on a Tuesday night) during the

summer then training moved to the Astro pitch in Kiltegan when the evenings got dark.

First of all, we want to thank all the lads who played during the year. They have been a great group of lads to work with and everyone who has helped out during the year has said how great a group they are to work with and how skilful they are.

We want to thank the parents who have brought their sons to training and matches week in and week out. Thank you all for the commitment that you have shown to our hurling team. Thank you also to Glenda, Marie and Sharron who volunteered as Covid Officers for this team at the start of the year.

There were a good few people who helped at various stages during the year with training or taking teams for games. I would like to thank Mark Landan for all his help during the year and I would not be surprised to see Mark playing a bit of hurling himself next year! Thanks also to Christy and Padraig O'Toole, John Harmon, Conor O'Leary, Ned Doyle, Denis Hayes, Gerry Boland, and Collie Doyle who all helped out at training or games during the year. I also want to thank Ronan Byrne who took the training when I was laid up during the summer.

I want to thank Lisa McRay and Emmer Harmon for washing the jerseys for the division 1 team and Helana and Mary Byrne for washing the division 2 team jerseys.

On the field the year started off with the two finals from last year's competition. The two games were played in lovely sunshine in June, one against Barndarrig in Aughrim and one against Eire Og in Avondale. Both teams played some great hurling and showed great heart to come on the right side of both games.

For the division 1 team our 2021 league started with a loss in our first game away to Arklow Rocks (However we got the points as they conceded the game beforehand). Next, we were beaten by Bray who got a great start, but we fought back well and just ran out of time in the end.

Next up we beat Kilcoole in a very tight game, next up we beat St Pats before going down to our worst defeat to Carnew. We then beat Glenealy and Eire Og before drawing Luke O'Toole's in our last league game.

That left ourselves and Luke O'Toole's level on points and a draw to determine 3rd and 4th place which placed us in 3rd and in a semi-final against Bray in which we were beaten by a point after a great game which could have gone either way. This left us in the division 1 B final against Luke O'Toole's who unfortunately were too strong for us on the day. It was a horrible day for hurling and the breaks went against us still the lads could not be faulted for effort, and they fought right to the end.

The division 2 team's 2021 campaign also got off to a losing start when we were beaten by Barndarrig in our first game. However, we would go on to win our games against Avondale, Western Gales and Eire Og before losing again to Barndarrig. We won our last three league games against Avondale, Western Gales and Eire Og again to leave us 2nd in the league with a semi-final against Western Gales. We

lost the semi-final after a cracker of a game by 2 points. That put us into the division 2 B final against Avondale, a game which was played in terrible conditions, but we won on the day.

I would like everyone who helped out during the year, a special thank you to the lads from U11 who came to help us out a few times when we were tight for numbers. Best of luck to the lads heading up into U15 next year, many of them got good experience with this year's U15's.

Thank you to all our players it has been a privilege to have worked with them during the year. I hope that everyone continues to play hurling and gets much enjoyment from

hurling in the years to come.

For the record, our U13 panel for 2021 Conor O'Toole, Christopher O'Toole, Eoin Tallon, Jack Peter Nolan, Cathal Hennessy Murphy, Nicky Bolton, Hugh Gartland, Joey Kelly, Jack Murphy, Nathan Landan, Daniel Collins, Conall Harmon, Aaron Young, Richard Hathaway, Taylor Ryan, Conor Boland, Taylor Fagan, Taoirse Scully, Sean Byrne, Billy Young, Jack Manifold, Tj O'Toole, Jack McRae, Liam McRae, Cathal Mallin, Jake House, Ultan O'Leary, Jack Whelan.

U11's who helped during the year were Eoin Doyle, Josh Furlong, Ralph Majlath, Noah Farrell, Scott Harmon and Rian Kennedy.

U13 Football



Younger Team - Good engagement with players throughout 2021. Players from the three clubs got to know each other and blended well together. Very strong attendance at training and matches. We strongly encouraged participation and aimed to give all players equal game time. Noticeable

improvement in skills, teamwork and confidence throughout the year. Fulfilled all 15 fixtures (4 U12 Player Pathway, 11 U13 Div E Championship). Ultimately won their U-13 Divisional Shield Final and topped their U 12 group. Combined with U 13 hurling panel for some winter fitness training in

November and aiming to organise a social activity to finish the year subject to COVID restrictions.

Older Team - U13 team began the year with Podge O'Toole and Adam Wynne agreeing to train the team, with myself and Mick Barry helping out on management side.

We had a few tough challenge games against St Nicholas and Clonmore to begin.

We began the league and ended up playing nine and winning 8, losing to Annacurra .

That put us into a semi-final v St Kevin's ,we came out on the winning side .

In the Final we were playing Annacurra for the third time,

U15 Hurling



2021 started on a great note for our Under 15's. When competitions resumed, we had to finish out the 2020 competitions, and were in the A Semi Final against a fancied Bray Emmetts side. The match was played in Ballinakill, where we fought hard to get a well-deserved, if very close win over Bray. The main issue we had after the game was that our full back, Ross Sheridan dislocated his thumb during the second half and had to (very reluctantly on his part) come off injured. This win set up a rather unique County Final, where we were to play Western Gaels. Being involved, I am probably biased, but I think that the final was one of the best games

with a win each this was a winner take all.

We played the final in Stratford on a windy day, we went in 8 points up at halftime, but unfortunately after a great game we couldn't hold out.

As well as being talented footballers, the lads were extremely committed and hardworking throughout the year.

A special word of thanks to Podge and Adam for their commitment to the team, and quality of training sessions that the lads really bought into.

Also special word of thanks to Denise for COVID checks, Eimear and Lisa for washing Jersey's.

of underage hurling that was seen in Aughrim this year. In a performance of skill, determination, and pure hard work, we beat a great Western Gaels side to lift the Under 15 A Title for 2020.

After that, we started off our 2021 campaign where Western Gaels got their revenge when they beat us in the first round. Throughout the rest of the league, we put in some great performances but were not able to get over the line. We were beaten in some close games, where we could have won. We picked up our first win against Kilcoole after another good performance and looked to build on this going for-



ward.

When the Feile came around, we were in Group 2 and went down to Ballinakill, confident that we could win, even though we had been beaten by both the opposing Wicklow teams in our group in previous weeks, Luke O' Tooles and Arklow Rocks.

In three very hard fought and competitive games, we beat all three teams to win our group, thanks to a panel of 24 who played on the day. In truth, it was the full panel who won those games, as when the pressure was on every player, no matter when they were called on, stood up and won their individual battles.

We finished out the year with another win, where we again beat Kilcoole in the 2021 Cup Final. Again, as with all our games this year it was a performance full of heart, determination and great hurling, including a goal from Andy Corrigan, when every one of us was shouting at him to take his point.

We would probably not have had an Under 15 team this year without the 8 Under 13's who agreed to come up and play Under 15 for the year. This left us with a panel of 26 players, the help of Aaron Byrne and Steven Coogan but as training continued it became clear that the numbers were not there to

and as well as strengthening our panel, I think it really benefited all these younger players.

I would like to thank Ronan, Colm, Liam and Lorcan for their work throughout the year. In truth they were doing most of the work. Ronan's training sessions are second to none and the lads really enjoy the type of hurling that he is promoting. A special thanks must go to all the parents who travel the length and breath of the county bringing the lads to training and matches, including some early Sunday mornings in Kiltegan.

It has again been a pleasure to be involved with this group this year as they are a credit to their families and have become a very close group who play for themselves and their team mates.

I wish all the lads who are moving to Under 17 the best for next year, and hope that those staying at Under 15 continue to grow and improve as they have all year.

U15 Football

We started the year with the possibility of 2 teams in this age group. Our first team was entered into Division 2 while the 2nd team entered into Division 4. We started training with the



facilitate 2 teams. So it was decided to just go with one team in Division 2 as we could not be moved to either division 3 or 4. Our first 2 matches were heavy losses against St Kevins

and Baltinglass. Following complaints from some division 1 clubs we got moved to division 4 at a special Coiste na nOg meeting. Our first match in this division was against Kilcoole

which we won handy, so our luck had changed from getting heavy defeats to beating other teams easily in this division. Then the whole Division 4 set up went pear shaped where other teams only had 10/11 players and couldn't field teams, we got walkovers and matches been rescheduled for weeks, this led to them clashing with hurling and minor matches (which some of our older players having to play with this age group to help make up a minor team) So as it progressed towards the end of the season a number of these players pick up some injuries which couldn't be helped. We headed into our last league match needing a win to come 2nd in the league table, we were playing Kilcoole in Ballinakill in this match. We ended up losing this match and we finished up 2nd from the bottom thus leading us to play Tinahely in the Shield Final in Baltinglass. We had a great 1st half but ran out of steam in the 2nd half with a number of our players having played a minor match the previous evening and a number of our lads carrying injuries. Tinahely won the match in the end.

We then went to Feile in Carnew, where we defeated both Aughrim and Carnew to win the Feile out right but with the way the Feile was been ran this year, we didn't get to represent Wicklow in the Special Feile in Croke Park.

I would like to say a big "Thank You" to Steven and Aaron

Our minor footballers had a late start due to Covid. We were moved up to minor B this year. We played the player path-



way games, then we started our championship. We played 10 great games which put us into the semi-final of the minor b plate. We played Pearse Gaels in the semi-final and we won this. We went on to the final against Tomnafinnogue which was played in Tinahely and we won on a score line of 2-12 to 2-6.

It would not have been possible to field a minor team without the lads stepping up from under 15 level. A massive thank you to each and every one of these. It will really stand to all of these lads when playing minor again next year. Myself P.J and Johnny were so delighted for the lads. I would like to thank P.J and Johnny for all their help and hard work during the year.

I would like to wish the 7 lads from Ballymamus and Cathal

U19 Football

We currently have a team in the U19 Football Championship. This competition has only got going and we wish the players and coaches the very best of luck.

who helped out at the beginning but with their own playing & training schedule they found it hard to continue so it was decided that the lads would train with the minors under the guidance of P.J Byrne, Ollie Murphy and Johnny Wybrant, a big thank you lads. I also want to say Thank you to Lisa Harmon who helped me out during the year with the lads and at the matches. I want to wish the older lads all the best as they progress to the minor panel for next year. There won't be a bother on you.

I would like to take this opportunity to "Thank" all the parents who continued to support us with bringing their sons to training or matches.

On a personal note, I want to express my sincere condolences to Aaron and his family on the tragic loss of his mother during the year. To anyone else who suffered a beaveremnt during the year I wish to express my sympathy to you as well.

U17 Hurling

We had 2 Hurlers go on permission to play with the Western Gaels Minor Hurling team. James Boland and Jack O'Toole played an important part in this team as they went on to win the Minor A Championship against Glen/Pats in the final. We would like to thank all at Western Gaels for accommodating the lads this year.

U17 Football

Sheehan from Knockananna all the best with their future adult football with their clubs.

A huge thanks also to the parents for getting the lads to all the training sessions and matches and for being great supporters throughout the year for the lads.

Many thanks to the committee of Michael Dwyers for their support and help over the years also.

Having worked with these lads for the past few years I would just like to say what are great bunch they are as a team and also individuals. Their commitment to the game and their respect for other players and coaches is a credit to themselves and their parents.

I am looking forward to watching all these lads playing their adult football in the future.

Final Goodbye's

Michael Dwyer's GAA would like to wish our players that have finished their time with our club the very best of luck as they return to their homes clubs to continue their GAA journey.

U7's



The U7's had a great year, with over 30 kids participating. A lot of kids coming up for their first time, it is great to see all the new families joining the club. There was lots of fun & laughs along the year & that was just the coaches. We took great pleasure in seeing the progress all the boys

& girls made throughout the year & look forward to seeing them all again in the new year. But mostly we hope they all had fun & enjoyed their time learning new skills, being part of a team & making some new friends along the way. The future looks promising with all these future stars in the pipeline.

U13's



Our U13's boys had a great year. As a team the lads developed as young men and they were a joy to coach throughout the year. We added some new players to the group which was great to see. The year was also a huge success on the

field as the lads picked up a shield title! The team for the year was: Mikey Daly, Sam Fenelon, Aaron Garrett, Ryan Collins, Aaron Roy, Scott McKenna, Pat Carey, Ryan McDonald, Michael Synnott (c), Cathal O'Toole, Max Roche, Luke Turley,

Dylan Dunleavy, Leon O'Connor, Tony Duffy, Oisín Duffy, Aidan Heffernan, John Turley, Aaron Nolan, PJ Cunningham, Gerry Hoban and Nathan Donoghue. The future is bright with these lads!! Big shout out to Shane Mooney, Cathal Mc-Nicholas and Ken Turner who coached the lads throughout the year!

Senior's

2021 started off with so much optimism for the senior men. 2020 saw them return to senior 1 league for the first time in 8 years. However Covid hit and after just 3 games the league season was curtailed.

So the squad and management were looking forward to a full league campaign under their belts. It started well after a very good away win to Avondale. Unfortunately that was as good as it got for the remainder of the league campaign. A combination of poor performances, injuries and a small squad left the team with a tough task in a very competitive league.

Onto the championship and we drew favourites St Pats Wicklow town. A tough draw but one the squad looked forward to taking on. A very poor first quarter put the team 8 points behind, despite the concession of two poor goals the team battled back and kept with Pats for the remainder of the game.

Onto the next round and a straight knockout against Avondale. The winner would take up a quarter final spot while the

The young Junior b team had a rocky start but bounced back to beat our closest neighbors Newcastle on their home patch to lift the cup.

There were plenty of debuts this year which is great to see. The enthusiasm within the squad is brilliant, so we will hope to build on the silverware won.

loser would enter into a quarter final league play off. A very poor performance from the team meant entering into the play off with Bray Emmets, Eire Og, Tinahely and Kiltegan. The squad was further depleted when players failed to make themselves available for these matches making the task of staying up harder. A loss away to Eire Og was followed by a draw against Kiltegan meaning we had to get a result away to Tinahely. It wasn't to be and after another loss at home to Bray in the final match we were relegated back to intermediate championship since winning it in 2003.

It was 4 years of hard work by manager Damian Gilligan and his management team. He got them promoted to the top league and won their first championship match in Aughrim for a number of years. Everyone in the club wishes him the very best in future. Special mention to club stalwart John Titch Healy for his tireless work all year and to club legend Dean Odlum who suffered a collapsed lung during the season.

Junior B's



FOUNDED 1887